Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 AID-20 IO-14 DPW-01

INRE-00 /148 W

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O R 291200Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4737

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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7/13 AF

7TH PSYOPS

COMUSSAG

III MAF

CINCPACAF

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JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB

SUBJ: KHMER REPORT -- JANUARY 29, 1974

GENERAL

1. THE ENEMY MOVED CLOSER TO ITS AVOWED AIM OF "TURNING PHNOM PENH INTO A BATTLEFIELD" THIS WEEK AS IT POURED SOME 320 ROUNDS OF 105MM ARTILLERY FIRE INTO THE SOUTHERN FRIGNES OF THE CAPITAL CITY KILLING 95 CITIZENS AND WOUNDING 192. THESE ATTACKS, WHICH ONE EVENING CAUSED SEVERAL THOUSAND FAMILIES TO FEAR AN ENEMY GROUND ATTACK AND TO FLEE INTO THE CITY, WERE MADE POSSIBLY BY FANK'S INITIALLY TARDY AND DISORGANIZED REACTION TO A MAJOR ENEMY INITIATIVE IN THE SOUTH. THE MILITARY THREAT AND EXTENSION OF THE CURFEW MUTED BUT DID NOT HALT THE SUTDENT PROTEST MOVEMENT, WHICH WAS, HOWEVER, CHALLENGED THIS WEEK BY PRO-GOVERNMENT STUDENT ACTION. THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH CONTINUED TO IMPROVE AS MEKONG CONVOYS ARRIVED AFTER ONLY MINOR ENEMY HARASSMENT. SIHANOUK EXPOUNDED HIS FAMILIAR THEMES FROM A HANOI PODIUM AS GRUNK/FUNK TOOK TIME OUT TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR OF ITS ASIAN ALLIES. CONFIDENTIAL

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POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. PRESIDENT LON NOL, PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET AND THE HIGH COMMAND URGED CALM AND SET FORTH SPECIFIC CIVIL DEFENSE DUTEIES FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS IN THE WAKE OF PANIC IN PHNOM PENH FOLLOWING SHELLING LATE JANUARY 26. THAT BARRAGE BROUGH THE SEVEN-DAY TOTAL TO OVER 300 ROUNDS OF

105MM ARTILLERY FIRED INTO THE HEAVILY POPULATED SOUTH-WESTERN FRINGE OF PHNOM PENH. THE SHELLING AND GROUNDLESS RUMORS THAT THE ENEMY HAD PENETRATED THE AREA AND WAS KID-NAPPING CIVILIANS DROVE SOME 5,000-10,000 INHABITANTS OF THE AREA INTO DOWNTOWN PHNOM PENH. MOST HAD FILTERED BACK BY THE NEXT MORNING.

- 3. AFTER HEAVY SHELLING JANUARY 24, OFFICIALS EXTENDED THE PHNOM PENH CURFEW JANUARY 25 TO COVER THE PERIOD FROM 1900 TO 0600. THE MOVE SHOULD KEEP CITY STREETS CLEAR FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES AND LESSEN CASUALTIES FROM ROUNDS ON RESTAURANTS AND PUBLIC PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT. THIS ACTION IS ALSO AIMED AT RESTRICTING MOVEMENT OF WOULD-BE ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVISTS AND IS PART OF A SERIES OF POPULATION CONTROL MEASURES THAT IS STILL UNFOLDING. DECREES BANNING PUBLIC MEETINGS, SUSPENDING LIBERTY OF THE PRESS AND PERMITTING SEARCH OF PRIVATE HOMES WERE ISSUEDTODAY (JANUARY 29).
- 4. THE GKR AND STUDENT RADICALS WARILY CIRCLED EACH OTHER. INFORMATION MINISTER TRINH HOANH LIBERALLY TARRED STUDENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT LOCH SOEUN WITH THE COMMUNIST BRUSH IN A JAN 26 PRESS CONFERENCE. IN AN EFFORT TO DUCK CHARGES OF SEDITION, SOEUN HAD EARLIER CLARIFIED HIS JANUARY 16 POSITION AS OPPOSITION NOT TO REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS BUT RATHER TO THE MANNER OF IMPLEMENTING THESE INSTITUTIONS; HE NOTED THAT THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PARTIES MADE THE SAME CHARGES IN REFUSING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 1972 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. RADICAL STUDENTS

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O R 291200Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4738

TO SECSTATE WASHIDE IMMEDIATE 47

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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HELD MEETINGS OVER THE WEEKEND IN WHICH THEY CONTINUED TO PRESS FOR REOPENING OF SCHOOLS, MAINTAINED FRIM OPPOSITION TO MILITARY TRAINING FOR STUDENTS AND A STUDENT

RESERVE AND KEPT UP PRESSURE FOR PERMISSION TO PUBLISH THE STUDENT BULLETIN. THEY ALSO APPROVED FORMATION OF A NEW "KHMER YOUTH ASSOCIATION" TO GROUP BOTH LYCEE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

- 5. ABOUT 100 SPONSORED PRO-GOVERNMENT STUDENTS MET AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY JAN 25 AND LATER SENT A DELEGATION TO ASSURE LON NOL OF THEIR WISH TO SEE CONTINUE IN POWER. THE GROUP ANNOUNCED OPPOSTION TO "INDOCHINESE COMMUNISM AND ITS PHNOM PENH NETWORK", AND CORRUPTION; THEY SUPPORTED LON NOL AND REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS.
- 6. CONSCRIPTION AND RECRUITMENT CONTINUED AT A SLOW PACE WITH ACCESSIONS THIS WEEK BRINGING THE ACCUMULATIVE TOTAL FOR PHNOM PENH TO 14,285 AND FOR THE NATION TO 17,624.

 A DECREE WAS PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 25 FORMALIZING THE MIXED STAFF FOR CONSCRIPTION AND RECRUITMENT AND ASSIGNING IT WIDE RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDING THE APPREHENSION OF DESERTERS AND COORDINATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF ALL ECHELONS OF THE GENERAL MOBILIZATION STRUCTURE. 1,200 MEMBERS OF THE NEW REPUBLICAN POLICE HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO HELP TAKE THE CENSUS, UPON WHICH A NEW CONSCRIPTION EFFORT WILL CONFIDENTIAL

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BE BASED. THESE POLICEMEN, WHO BEGAN TRAINING FOR THESE DUTIES ON JANUARY 28, ARE TO BE USED IN LIEU OF TEACHERS, WHOSE ORGANIZATIONS ARE STILL IN SEMI-CONFRONTATION WITH GOVERNMENT.

7. ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARIS ACCORDS, LON NOL SPOKE TO THE NATION REVIEWING HIS ATTEMPT AT UNILATERAL CEASE-FIRE AND HIS GOVERNMENT'S JULY 6, 1973 NEGOTIATING OFFER AND DETAILING NVA/VC INTRANSIGENCE AND CONTINUED AGGRESSION AGAINST THE REPUBLIC. HE CONCLUDED WITH AN APPEAL FOR UNITY AND VIGILANCE AGAINST THE VIETNAMESE AGGRESSORS AT THIS TIME OF DECISIVE BATTLE.

GRUNK/FUNK

8. SIHANOUK AND ENTOURAGE SPENT FOUR DAYS IN HANOI OVER THE TET HOLIDAY (HIS SECOND TET IN A ROW IN HANOI) AND RETURNED TO CANTON JANUARY 26. DURING THE VISIT HE REPORTEDLY MET WITH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO HANOI, BUT THE OCCASION SERVED PRIMARILY TO REEMPHASIZE SOLIDARITY WITH HIS INDOCHINESE COMMUNIST ALLIES. THE PRINCE'S SPEECH AT A BANQUET IN HIS HONOR REPEATED FAMILIAR CHARGES THATTHE GKR SURVIVES ONLY BY MASSIVE US AID AND RAISED AGAIN THE FEAR OF RENEWED US BOMBING AS A "SWORD OF DAMOCLES" READY TO INTERVENE SHOULD THE "KHMER PEOPLE DARE LIBERATE PHNOM PENH..."

GKR OR ANY THIRD FORCE AND DESCRIBED SON SAMM AS "A WELL-KNOWN AGENT OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL INPERIALISM OF THE FREE (SIC) WORLD." "THE SON SOANNS HAVE NO RIGHT TO POSE AS THE THIRD FORCE WHICH WILL NEVER BE ANYTHING BUT A NON-FORCE," HE ADDED. HIS TERMS FOR ENDING THE WAR CONTINUE TO BE: US HALTS AID TO THE KHMER REPUBLIC AND ENDS "INTERFERENCE" IN KHMER AFFAIRS; GRUNK AND THE USG ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS; GRUNK/FUNK AND THE CPNLAF TAKE LENIENT MEASURES TOWARD THE TRAITORS "EXCEPT NOTORIOUS WAR CRIMINALS."

9. CLANDESTINE RADIO CONTINUED TO TRUMPET KC ASSAULTS ON POSITIONS AROUND PHNOM PENH AS A BASIS FOR WARNINGS TO KHMER AND VARIOUS FOREIGN RESIDENTS. GKR TROOPS CAME IN FOR HEAVY-HANDED APPEALS TO SURRENDER AND RECEIVED PARDON CONFIDENTIAL

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OR DIE, AND CIVIL SERVANTS WERE URGED NOT TO SERVE THE GKR AND DEFECT TO THE LIBERATED ZONE. CHINESE AND VIETNAMESE

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 AID-20 IO-14 DPW-01 INRE-00

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O R 291200Z JAN 74 FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4739 INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK AMEMBASSY CANBERRA AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN AMEMBASSY JAKARTA AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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RESIDENTS OF PHNOM PENH RECEIVED LUNAR NEW YEAR GREETINGS SUGGESTING THEY LEAVE PHNOM PENH. FUNK APPEALED TO OTHER FOREIGNERS TO LEAVE, DENYING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES SHOULD THEY STAY, AND URGED FOREIGN RESIDENTS WHO HAVE LIVED IN CAMBODIA FOR MANY GENERATIONS TO EVACUATE THE CAPITAL AND HEAD FOR THE LIBERATED ZONE.

GRUNK/FUNK EXTERNAL

10. THE ROMANIAN PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT ROMANIA SIGNED A PROTOCOL JANUARY 22, 1974 GRANTING UNSPECIFIRED NON-REIMBURSABLE ASSISTANCE TO GRUNK.

ECONOMIC

11. ON JANUARY 26 THE US AND THE GKR SIGNED AN AGREEMENT INCREASING THE COMMERCIAL IMPORT PROGRAM BY \$12 MILLION TO A NEW FY 74 TOTAL OF \$48.5 MILLION. US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE KHMER REPUBLIC PROVIDED DURING FY 74 NOW TOTALS \$230.4 MILLION CONSISTING OF \$170.7 MILLION PL 480, \$48.5 MILLION FOR THE CIP, \$1.3 MILLION TO REFUGEES, \$9.5 MILLION US CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND, AND \$400 THOUSAND FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT.

12. AS OF JANUARY 27 THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 23,000 M/T CONFIDENTIAL

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OF RICE IN PHNOM PENH WAREHOUSES. IN ADDITION, KOMPONG SOM WAREHOUSES HELD A TOTAL OF ALMOST 18,000 M/T. TOTAL COUNTRY-WIDE STOCKS REPRESENT APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS SUPPLY.

13. EFFORTS ARE CONTINUING TO SECURE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF POL FOR THE RICE HARVEST IN BATTAMBANG, WHICH MUST GET ITS POL THROUGH THAILAND (BECAUSE ROUTE 5 IS CLOSED). THE POL SHORTAGE IN BATTAMBANG BECAME CRITICAL LAST WEEK WHEN THE THAI GOVERNMENT PROHIBITED ALL EXPORTS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. REPRESENTATIONS TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN WITHOUT AVAIL.

MILITARY

14. FROM JANUARY 19 TO 28, THE ENEMY POURED 320 ROUNDS OF 105MM HOWITZER INTO THE CAPITAL'S SOUTHERN EDGE AND SUBSURBS KILLING 85 AND WOUNDING 192. MOST OF THE ROUNDS CAME IN DURING THREE NIGHTS BEGINNING JANUARY 24. THE ENEMY WAS ABLE TO GET INTO 105MM RANGE OF THE CITY BECAUSE THE THIRD FANK DIVISION HAD RETIRED FROM DEFENSIVE POSITIONS SOUTH OF THE PREK PHNAOT RIVER (SEE KHMER REPORT OF JANUARY 22) FOLLOWING LIGHT CONTACT. THE ENEMY PUT ITS 105MM HOSITZERS ON THE TERRAIN THUS GIVEN UP. FANK WAS SLOW IN REACTING TO THIS NEW THREAT AND DID NOT SUCCEED IN RECOVERING MUSH OF THE LOST TERRAIN, THOUGH IT HAS STABILIZED ITS DEFENSE LINE ON THIS FRONT. DESPITE HEAVY FANK ARTILLERY AND AIR BOMBARDMENT OF THE AREA FROM WHICH THE 105S HAVE BEEN FIRING, THE HOWITZER THREAT CONTINUES.

15. THE IMMEDIATE THREAT TO THE CAPITAL FROM THE NORTHWEST EBBED AWAY DURING THE WEEK, AS THE MULTI-BATTALION ENEMY FORCE WITH-DREW FROM ITS SALIENT IN THE FACE OF THE ADVANCE OF THE FIRST DIVISION AND THE 28TH BRIGADE, FOLLOWING HEAVY POUNDING BY FANK

ARTILLERY AND AIR. FANK COUNTED MORE THAN 300 ENEMY KILLED AND 200 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS WERE CAPTURED.

16. INCREASED ACTIVITY IN NORTHWESTERN CAMBODIA SAW 50 VILLAGERS REPORTEDLY MASSACRED AND 400 HOMES BURNED BY THE COMMUNISTS AT KAMRIENG IN MR III ON JANUARY 21. THE SAME DAY ENEMY GROUND PROBES AGAINST AN OUTPOST IN MR IV'S ODDAR MEANCHEY PROVINCE CAUSED FANK TO REINFORCE FROM THE PROVINCE CAPITAL. ATTACKS AGAINST ODDAR MEANCHEY OUTPOSTS ARE CONTINUING.

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17. ON JANUARY 25 THE ENEMY CUT RTE 4 AGAIN. ON RTE 1, SECOND DIVISION TROOPS CLEARED A ONE-DAY CUT. ROUTE 5 REMAINS CLOSED. HOWEVER, THE MEKONG, THE MOST IMPORTANT LOC, REMAINS OPEN, AND CONVOYS MOVE FREELY ON IT. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS, MILITARY PLANS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, CASUALTIES

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Image Path:

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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2002 by boyleja>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: KHMER REPORT -- JANUARY 29, 1974 GENERAL

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005